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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY France

DATE DISTR. 12 Sept. 1950

SUBJECT French Government Expulsion of
Foreign Communists

NO. OF PAGES 2

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ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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*SOURCE [REDACTED]

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1. French Security Services issued warrants on 7 September 1950 for the arrest of some 400 foreigners suspected of Communist and subversive activities against the French government. Early reports from the French provinces indicated that an average of 75 per cent of the arrests were effected as planned. The average for the Paris area was reported to be somewhat lower. About 150 warrants were issued against Spaniards and the next greatest number against Poles.
2. Source reported that this large-scale roundup and expulsion of foreign Communists within France was in accordance with a speech by French Premier Rene Plevin at the inauguration of the 25th European Fair at Strasbourg on 2 September 1950. The French premier stated then that the "Communist Fifth Column in France will be dealt with, but not by measures totalitarian in nature".
3. Though source originally reported that expelled persons would be shipped under guard to the Soviet Zone of Germany, this was done only in some cases. In accordance with French law, most of those to be expelled were given the right to indicate the country to which they wished to be sent. It was planned, however, to intern the Spaniards first in Corsica and Algeria, pending their final disposition. Those Spaniards arrested by the end of 7 September had indicated a desire either to return to Spain or to be sent to Yugoslavia.
4. Among those arrested were Alexander Abramson, long-time suspected Communist agent, and Hermina Rabinowicz, well-known collaborator of Abramson. Abramson signified his desire to be sent to Israel. Upon receipt of the news of Abramson's arrest, however, Leon Jouhaux,* Secretary-General of the World Federation of Trade Unions, intervened immediately with Plevin and Henri Queuille, Minister of the Interior. According to source, Plevin

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rather than run the risk of a political estrangement with Jouhaux, ordered that the expulsion measure against Abramson not be executed. Source reported that the order has been suspended but still exists.

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Comment.

- * Jouhaux has been reported to fill a unique role in the non-Communist labor movement. He is not affiliated with any party, but allegedly sympathizes most with the Socialists. As early as 1947 he was reported to be a close friend of Abramson.

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